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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Seventy-fifth meeting
Geneva, 10 February 2015
Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda
Matters relating to the
Committee on Sustainable Energy

Decision approving the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2014–2015

Background

1. At its first session (Geneva, 17-18 November 2014), the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency agreed on the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2014-2015 and requested the secretariat to submit the Work Plan for endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy and subsequent approval by the Executive Committee.

2. At its twenty-third session (Geneva, 19-21 November 2014), the Committee on Sustainable Energy endorsed the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2014–2015, and requested the secretariat to submit the Work Plan for approval by the Executive Committee.

Draft decision

3. The Executive Committee, at its seventy-fifth meeting on 10 February 2015, approves the work plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2014–2015 as contained in the Annex.

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Annex

I. Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency for 2014–2015

1. Annex II of the Executive Committee decision on matters related to the Committee on Sustainable Energy (ECE/EX/2013/L.15) establishes a Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency (the Group of Experts), which is mandated to carry out concrete, results-oriented activities that, in line with the "Sustainable Energy for All" (SE4All) initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, help significantly improve energy efficiency in the region, thus contributing to climate change mitigation efforts; and strengthen regional cooperation in energy efficiency, with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

2. According to its Terms of Reference, the Group of Experts will concentrate on: (a) Regulatory and policy dialogue addressing financial, technical and policy barriers to improve energy efficiency; and (b) Sharing experience and best practices in the field of energy efficiency in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region, including on strengthening institutional capacity in energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

3. The mandate is approved until December 2015, with the possibility of extension.

II. Concrete Activities

4. On the basis of a proposal by the Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and nominated candidates to the Bureau of the Group of Experts, the Group of Experts proposes to undertake the following activities:

A. Identification of the state of development of energy efficiency in the ECE region

Description: The Group of Experts will identify the state of development of energy efficiency in countries in the region to establish a baseline for further activities. The work will be conducted with other relevant international and national actors and be based on existing data and benchmarking indicators in order to identify success stories that can be scaled up.

Work to be undertaken:

- Conduct a review of relevant studies/analyses to establish a baseline of energy efficiency in the ECE region, including an overview of existing energy efficiency indicators and their relevance, availability, timeliness and quality of data, and existing energy efficiency monitoring systems;
- Present the results of the review to the Committee of Sustainable Energy.

Deliverables: A report submitted for consideration by the Group of Experts.

Timeline:

- Literature review at regional level: October 2014;
- Presentation of the initial results to the Committee on Sustainable Energy: November 2014.

B. Exchange of know-how and best practices in ECE on how to significantly improve energy efficiency in the ECE region

Description: The Group of Experts will encourage the exchange of know-how and best practices between relevant experts of all member States and relevant international actors on how to significantly improve energy efficiency in the region. This work will be undertaken collaboratively with other organizations, such as the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency (C2E2), the Energy Charter Secretariat, the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), the United Nations Foundation, the European Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Investor Confidence Project Europe, ISGAN – International Smart Grids Action Network, other United Nations Regional Commissions (UN RCs), and other relevant organizations.

Work to be undertaken:

- Identify and contact key stakeholders from government, non-governmental, financial and international organizations as well as from energy companies and academia and work with them (through an interactive electronic exchange) to identify economic and efficient measures and technologies that are capable of accelerating energy efficiency improvements in key sectors in the region;
- Produce a menu of economic and efficient measures and technologies, including high-impact policy measures that could help the countries of the region (at the national and local levels) to significantly improve energy efficiency. ECE member States that have implemented measures will be indicated, allowing both tracking and reporting of progress and providing platforms for experience sharing. The menu would provide ECE member States with a range of options, including smart grids, that they could consider for inclusion in their national action plans;
- Identify work on energy efficiency standards and labelling that is ongoing in other organizations (such as the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC), etc.) and develop suggestions on establishing ECE standards for energy efficiency in cooperation with international standardization organizations;
- Based on the above, support the exchange of experiences and assist ECE member States, if requested, with the development of national action plans that contribute to a significant improvement in the uptake of energy efficiency. This work will be carried out in cooperation with other actors such as UNDP, UNFCCC, UNEP, C2E2, and Energy Community Treaty.

Deliverables:

- A first draft menu of accelerators based on available information from existing actors (UNFCCC, IEA, UNEP, and C2E2) and countries implementing them will be circulated to stakeholders and posted on the ECE website in March 2015. Stakeholders will be invited to comment on the draft menu in an interactive electronic exchange of views. The menu will be updated regularly in the same manner;

- Suggestions for further work on developing and establishing ECE standards for energy efficiency;
- Help in developing national action plans if requested and where possible on the basis of existing templates and models.

Timeline:

- Present a draft version of the menu of accelerators in March 2015;
- Improve/complete/maintain/update the menu from March 2015 onwards;
- Suggestions for further work on the development and establishment of ECE standards for energy efficiency: May 2015;
- Assistance in developing national energy efficiency actions plans: ongoing.

C. Share experience on smart grids and other advanced transmission and distribution technologies

Description: This activity aims at increasing awareness on the advantages of smart grids and their potential to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy use. It will be carried out with the International Energy Agency (IEA) "Implementing Agreement for a Co-operative Programme on Smart Grids (ISGAN)[1].

Work to be undertaken:

Provide an overview of smart grids initiatives and activities in the region leading to enhanced understanding of the state of development of smart grids, and their impact.

Deliverables:

- Overview of activities and players active in smart grids.

[1] http://www.iea-isgan.org